

**ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF WORK SESSION**

**May 4, 2000  
6 — 9:30 p.m.**

**College Hill Library, Front Range Community College  
3705 West 112th Avenue, Westminster, Colorado**

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**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgkin

Gerald DePoorter, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ray Betts, Shawn Burke, Eugene DeMayo, Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Jeff Eggleston, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Tom Marshall, Mary Mattson, LeRoy Moore, Markuené Sumler, Bryan Taylor / Steve Gunderson, Jeremy Karpatkin, John Rampe, Tim Rehder

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Roman Kohler (citizen); John Marler (RFCOLG); Paul Hartmann (DOE-RFFO); Louise Janson (citizen); Don Owen (DNFSB); Ann Lockhart (CDPHE); Bill Shearer (SeaCrest Group); Russell McCallister (DOE-RFFO); Kathy Wahlberg (CDPHE); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Jerry DePoorter announced that two Board members, Bruce Dahm and David Navarro, had recently submitted their resignations from the Board. Shawn Burke also announced that he would be leaving the Board to pursue a new career in another country. Shawn will attend the June Board meeting and then will leave for his new post with the Peace Corps in mid-June. Ken Korkia announced the site will host an availability session for the public to discuss the air monitoring results from the prescribed test burn in the Buffer Zone, which was performed on April 6. The availability session will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10, at Red Rocks on the Ridge Arvada Campus.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** No comments were received.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES:** Mark Spears, vice president with Kaiser-Hill, attended the Board meeting to give a briefing on the process involved with ensuring safety at the site for workers involved in the Closure Project. He started by stressing that both safety and production go hand-in-hand. Commercial plants with the safest operations also have the highest productivity. Safety requires an attention to detail, understanding of the work being done, and a commitment to quality and compliance. If the work is not done safely, then the work can't be done properly, and risk reduction will not be achieved. Kaiser-Hill's contract has significant penalties for safety, environmental, and safeguards and security lapses. The company has a responsibility to provide a safe work environmental for all its employees.

**ADMIN RECORD**

SW-A-005356

Mark presented a list of the top ten accidents on the site since Kaiser-Hill took over in 1995. Some of those accidents were weather-related due to severe ice, snow and wind storms. The most serious injury was to an employee who suffered a brain contusion due to falling on ice during high winds. The only significant radiological exposure was in 1999, when an employee doing work on a glovebox cut himself with a portable band saw, and the wound was contaminated.

The company uses a number of mechanisms to help manage safety. First, each worker on a job has the authority to stop work if they are concerned about safety. Kaiser-Hill has established an Integrated Work Control Program, which helps to identify the hazards, plan safety requirements, train, give feedback, and apply Integrated Safety Management Principles. Weekly meetings are held with the group managers, and each day before work starts there is a work group meeting. There is also a Joint Company Union Safety Committee, and an extensive union grievance procedure. DOE, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, EPA, and CDPHE all provide additional oversight of safety issues and perform audits of the processes. Finally, Kaiser-Hill tracks and analyzes trends to identify areas that need more attention. Kaiser-Hill follows two health indicators to measure safety performance: Total Recordable Case (TRC) Rate, or injuries per 200,000 man hours; and Lost Workday Case (LWDC) Rate, or lost workdays due to injuries per 200,000 man hours. These are standard indicators defined by OSHA. Mark presented some graphics that showed the TRC Rate during Kaiser-Hill's tenure has been reduced slowly over time, and stayed beneath the construction industry rate of 8.8. The LWDC Rate during the same time period has also gone down, and is close to Kaiser-Hill's goal. Radiological violations since November of 1995 have been reduced significantly. However, one area that Kaiser-Hill needs to improve is in the area of Operational Safety Requirements and Technical Safety Requirements Violations.

Radiological infractions (involving nuclear materials) and Authorization Basis Violations (a combination of Operational Safety Requirement and Technical Safety Requirement violations) serve as leading indicators to help assess behavior and take steps to prevent accidents before they occur. They track behaviors and trends, focusing on compliance with DOE procedures and standards, and help to serve as an early warning system for behaviors or lapses that could result in an actual injury. Mark noted that improvements in safety are always warranted. Kaiser-Hill has is concerned because the rate of safety improvement is slow, and repetitive work can lead to inattention to detail. They are considering potential initiatives, such as incentives to work crews for safety performance, and penalizing supervisors for unsafe operating conditions.

**REGULATOR UPDATE — COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT:** Steve Gunderson with CDPHE gave his quarterly update on Rocky Flats issues.

- **Reorganization.** Kaiser-Hill has reorganized its work force into six major projects: individual Closure Projects for Buildings 707, 371, 771, and 776/777; Materials Stewardship and Offsite Shipment; and Remediation, Industrial Building D&D, and Site Services. The reorganization has resulted in a temporary slowdown in closure activities.
- **2006 Baseline.** Kaiser-Hill is redoing its 2006 Site Closure Baseline to comply with the Closure Contract Scope of Work. The new baseline should be delivered to DOE by June 30.
- **Material Access Areas (MAAs) Closure.** The site is accelerating efforts to close all

MAAs (other than 371) as soon as possible, possibly by the end of the calendar year. Current plans are to close the Protected Area by the end of 2002.

- **Building 776.** Closure plans are being revamped, and currently include plans to clean the building of large volumes of contaminated equipment before glovebox size reduction resumes. A robotics size-reduction system is planned for installation later this year.
- **Building 771.** A rebaseline is in the works. Current plans are to divide the building into two sections, one of which is more contaminated than the other. Kaiser-Hill hopes to drain all liquids by year-end. The less contaminated section of the building will be worked on first. Kaiser-Hill hopes to get approval to conduct plasma-cutting size reduction; mockup testing of this system is being conducted offsite.
- **Building 707.** Regulators have received the first three sections of a preliminary draft DOP and have commented.
- **Building 371.** Some funding for 371 has been diverted to 707 to accelerate closure of the MAA in 707. A draft DOP for 371 should be received by mid-summer.
- **Soil Action Levels.** RFCA parties have identified the key issues requiring discussion and decision. That includes review of a dose-based versus risk-based approach, selecting a regulatory approach, land use scenarios, the use of a prairie grass fire in calculations, use of ALARA, and review of RAC modifications to RESRAD. Current plans are to have facilitated work group meetings, which will be open to the public. RFCA principals will meet in mid-May to discuss this issue.
- **903 Pad.** EPA and DOE are continuing their discussions over the option of EPA performing the 903 Pad remediation. The 903 Pad Area Characterization Report has been revised in response to comments.
- **Industrial Area Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP).** The DQO and Plan outline have been developed and reviewed by the agencies. The SAP should be completed by September 30.
- **Solar Ponds Treatment System.** Because of spring precipitation, volumes of groundwater behind the treatment system barrier have reached levels that allow water to enter the treatment cell. Nitrate concentrations from the treated effluent have not yet been reported. The site is considering installation of a small well to pump groundwater into the treatment cell during periods of low flow.
- **Characterization of Under-Building Contamination.** A SAP for the deployment of a new technology to characterize under-building contamination has been compiled. This technology is being developed at Sandia. Contamination under 886 and the 123 slab will be investigated this summer.
- **NPDES Permit.** Public comment closed April 6. Written comments were received from DOE and the City of Broomfield.
- **WIPP Shipments.** TRU waste shipments from Rocky Flats resumed in March. DOE hopes to increase the number of shipments to three per week in the next couple of months.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** No comments were received.

**UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE "REGULATORY PATH TO CLOSURE":** Dave Shelton with Kaiser-Hill gave a brief presentation on the Integrating IROD Strategy. An IROD (Interim Final Record of Decision) is a regulatory decision document that integrates necessary response actions to achieve the final site condition, or final Record of Decision. The document provides the framework and strategy to achieve the final Record of Decision, and combines all accelerated actions into one document. The document describes everything that needs to be achieved in order to close

the site. A graphic was also supplied to Board members, which puts the Integrating IROD Strategy into a matrix. The graphic helps to provide an integrated decision-making process, a comprehensive evaluation of alternatives and impacts of various decisions, describes the sequence of when decisions must be made, focuses on what needs to be accomplished, and helps to plan for funding in outyears. The matrix separates the key projects and activities, the regulatory decisions, and key studies that all need to happen during the process of site closure. Then each item is broken down by the timeframe for those projects and decisions. The Site plans to have the Interim Final ROD (IROD) prepared by 2003. The next steps include designing a public process for the IROD, continuing to brief interested parties on the strategy, and to create a draft table of contents for the IROD. The Board's Remediation Technologies Committee received a briefing on this same subject at its meeting on May 1, and will monitor and work closely with the site on this project.

**STEWARDSHIP DIALOGUE DEVELOPMENT WITH THE COALITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:** On April 26, at a joint CAB/Coalition meeting, the Rocky Flats Stewardship Working Group reviewed and approved a draft work plan for the Working Group. The draft work plan has two objectives. The first, Task A, is to give the group an opportunity to understand and address current and near-term decisions and assumptions. Task B will be to investigate the stewardship implications of various potential end-state scenarios to help assess long-term implications of cleanup remedies. The group will focus on the current and near-term decisions during its first few meetings, then Task B will be the major focus once that is complete. A final decision on the elements of this work plan will be made at the next meeting of the group, to be held May 18<sup>th</sup>.

After discussing CAB member concerns expressed through a memo developed following the April Board meeting, Coalition members were willing to accept the Board's suggestion that the constitution of Working Group membership be revisited after six months. For now, the Working Group will have seven members from the Coalition and seven members from CAB. Meetings will be advertised and the public will be encouraged to attend and participate in the meetings; however, members of the public in attendance will not have decision-making authority within the Working Group or be considered members of the group. What time to hold meetings continues to be an issue. Coalition members did not agree to meet at 6 p.m. on a permanent basis. They agreed to hold meetings for three months — through the July meeting — at 6 p.m. After that time, the group will revisit the issue and determine whether there is enough public involvement to continue holding the meetings in the evening. CAB members feel it is important to hold the meetings in the evening, both to make it easier for Board member participation, and because that is the only way to get public involvement. Board members felt it would be important to make every effort through outreach to get the public involved over the next few months in order to demonstrate an interest and commitment.

Members of the CAB who are also members of the Working Group will continue to report back to CAB on their activities. Gerald DePoorter and Tom Marshall are co-chairs of the Board's Stewardship Committee, which has oversight over general stewardship issues, which includes monitoring the activities of the Working Group. There was a brief discussion of one Board member's memo, which stated a point of view about the frustrations of establishing the Stewardship Working Group. However, Board members did agree to continue forward with the process already established and wait to see how things work out.

**REMEDIATION TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE:** A group of members who agreed to participate on a new committee met in late April. The official name of the committee was decided on: the Remediation Technologies Committee. Co-chairs were also selected: Bill Kossack and Markuené Sumler. A schedule for future meetings was developed. The meetings are scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and June 7<sup>th</sup>. All meetings will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. The next two meetings will be held at College Hill Library. Activities to be addressed include a discussion about when decisions need to be made on remediation strategies, the nature of the problem — such as contamination at remedy locations, how RFCA approaches the selection of remedies, what possible remedies exist, and the success of any potential remedies.

**CAB VIDEO:** A draft script of the video was provided to CAB a couple of weeks ago, and some comments were received from Board members. The committee working on the Board's video met to review those comments and prepare a revised draft. Jeanna Blatt, DOE-Communications, was at the Board meeting to shoot footage for that video. Jeanna will produce the video. The next draft of the script will go out on May 5<sup>th</sup> to everyone. A final draft will be prepared around mid-May. Then the script will be given to Jeanna, and she will put the images together; that should take around six weeks. The video should be available by mid-June.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Based on a recommendation from the Personnel Committee, the Board unanimously agreed to hire Susan Wilds to fill the vacant position of Program Specialist. Susan has a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University, with a double major in Chemistry and Environmental Health Sciences. She most recently worked in a temporary internship position with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, working on the Chemical Management System. Susan has also worked for and served as a volunteer for a local non-profit organization.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Date:** June 1, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

**Location:** College Hill Library, 3705 West 112th Avenue, Westminster

**Agenda:** Discussion on Rocky Flats open space and wildlife refuge proposals by members of Congress; briefing on Rock Creek Reserve Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan; input to Board's 2001 work plan

**ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:**

1) None

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:35 P.M. \***

(\* Taped transcript of full meeting is available in CAB office.)

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

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Mary Harlow, Secretary  
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

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The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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